

KU-RING-GAI HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.



Including:
Ku-ring-gai Family History Group
Patron: The Mayor of Ku-ring-gai
Affiliated with:
The Royal Australian Historical Society
The National Trust of Australia (NSW)
The Society of Australian Genealogists
The NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc.

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APRIL 2017 NEWSLETTER VOL. 35, NO. 3

SATURDAY APRIL 1 FAMILY HISTORY MEETING 11.00AM WORKSHOP

Using the FamilySearch Website.

Presenter: Paul Parton.

2.00PM FAMILY HISTORY MEETING, followed by *Men of the Endeavour - Captain Cook's Discovery of the East Coast of Australia*

Presenter: Patrick Dodd



Replica of the Endeavour



Captain Cook, FRS RN

Patrick Dodd has made many presentations to KHS and guided some of its tours. He is a Volunteer Guide and Public Speaker at the State Library, President of the Macquarie Society. In 2012, Patrick was the NSW Volunteer of the Year for Cultural Heritage Interpretation (Heritage Council of NSW.)



Patrick Dodd

Visitors Welcome

Afternoon Tea will be Available

SATURDAY APRIL 15 GENERAL MEETING, followed by *The Life and Times of Sir John Monash.*

Presenter: John Malmberg.



Sir John Monash

Historian and U3 presenter John Malmberg's talk on Lieutenant General Sir John Monash (1865-1931) civil engineer, and Australia's greatest military leader, will range from his early life as an academically gifted son of Jewish Prussian immigrants, to his strategic contribution to the final victory in WWI, and his post-war years as a successful public administrator.



Monash being Knighted, 1918

Visitors Welcome

Afternoon Tea will be Available

**VALE - JOHN ERNEST WILSON,
BA, MEd, DipEd, 1939-2017**



We are sad to announce the passing of John Wilson on 5 March.

John grew up in Lindfield, attending local schools before going to Sydney University to gain his educational qualifications.

Following teaching in several schools, John joined the Public Service in Foreign Affairs AusAid, where he had postings in India, China and Cambodia.

John was a determined walker. His achievements include the Kokoda Track, base camp on Everest, approaches to Everest from both Tibet and Nepal, coast to coast in England and many treks in Australia.

John and Jan Wilson joined KHS in 2003. John was a committee member (2015-2017), and in this role and other roles, was always very helpful and constructive to the Society's activities, including of course his most recent role as Publicity Officer. John will be remembered for his calm and measured manner, always a gentle man and a gentleman.

In 2016, John was awarded Ku-ring-gai Historical Society's 'Family Historian of the Year' for his scholarly and professional work on his most interesting family history, and the family's long term relationship with Ku-ring-gai. A copy of his book is in the KHS Library.

A man of his character and ability is indeed a loss to our Society, and one can only imagine a deep and inconsolable loss to Jan and his family.

*"Perhaps my time seems all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief"*

MARCH FAMILY HISTORY

11.00am Session

26 members attended the morning session, 'Using the LPI Site', presented by Lorna Watt, a member of the Tuesday Built Heritage Group. LPI stands for Land and Property Information and is the new name

for the Land Titles Office. Lorna went through the procedure to find a land title by using the example of 4 Collins Road, St Ives. A full search can now be done online without visiting the LPI Office which is a huge help for anyone wishing to research a particular address. A 1943 aerial photograph of Sydney showed what 4 Collins Road looked like then. Lorna also searched for addresses in other parts of Ku-ring-gai that members were interested in.

Jenny Joyce then gave a short report of her visit to RootsTech Conference in Utah, USA. It is the largest family history conference in the world, with 30,000 attendees. She highlighted a very moving keynote presentation by LeVar Burton, where he talked about his life as an African American. At the conclusion of his address Thom Kerr, from Family Search, presented LeVar with a family tree of his ancestors which contained many details of his family that he had never known.

2.00p.m. Session

Jenny Joyce opened the meeting by welcoming everyone especially our speaker, Donna Newton. She then read out some memorable events for March 4 in previous times including the publication of the song 'Happy Birthday' in 1924.

Neil Falconer spoke about forthcoming tours, details of which can be found in the current Newsletter.

There being no further reports from members, Jenny Joyce introduced the speaker, Donna Newton, the librarian for the Royal Australian Historical Society. Donna had a very informative power point presentation, beginning with a short history of the Society from its beginnings in 1901, when a group of people interested in collecting and preserving the history of Australia met under the leadership of David Scott Mitchell and formed what was the first historical society in Australia.

The Society's collection includes photographs, sketches, paintings, slides, scrap-books of press clippings, furniture and, of course books, including family bibles and journals and a complete set of Shakespeare

presented by the then Duke of Edinburgh on a visit to Australia in 1868.

Many famous people have donated their collections to the Society - such as Frank Walker's slides of country NSW, and Mr and Mrs Foster's slides of Devonshire Street Cemetery before it was closed. There is an amazing panoramic photograph of Sydney taken from the top of the Garden Palace.

The RAHS is a reference library open to members (free) and the general public for a daily fee of \$5.50. It is open Monday to Friday from 10.00am to 4.00pm. (KHS is an affiliated society so all our members can attend free.)

Donna is a keen family historian who is able to help visitors, as are the other three members of staff and the volunteers. There are always books for sale to assist in research, and further extensions will provide two new floors and a lift.

After a number of questions Donna was thanked, with a bag of 'goodies', by Lorraine Henshaw.

The election of the Family History Group Committee will be held at the April Family History Meeting.

FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

SYDNEY CEMETERY ADVENTURES

Our February General Meeting was treated to an enthusiastic presentation by Lisa Murray, City of Sydney Historian, discussing her new book *Sydney Cemeteries: a field guide* (publ. NewSouth Books, Dec 2016.)

The book includes material on 101 cemeteries of the greater Sydney area. Lisa has seen cemeteries as mixed 'art, architecture, garden design, history and belief' since working on NSW cemetery history for her PhD 17 years ago. She greatly enjoyed the exploration of Sydney afforded by the field work for this project, shared by her partner taking the 'stunning' photographs, over many weekends in 2015-16.

A planned approach to site selection and collecting material was taken so the project would be achievable while working full time. This became appropriately representative of her subject, and accessible as a general tour guide for interested readers.

To begin, she established the Hawkesbury and Nepean Rivers as Sydney boundaries, enclosing 118 cemeteries and gravesites. Possible weekend site visits were researched and routes pre-planned, to maximise information and photo gathering in the time available. As material was collected, Lisa would write in the early mornings before work, using her knowledge and experience to describe the importance of each cemetery and its distinctive features, including particular burials. Additional research was fitted into lunchtimes at the Society of Australian Genealogists, or the State Library after work.

Ongoing efforts over many years by local groups recording these sites is greatly appreciated and acknowledged in the book, with many references, and overall by an internet list published on TROVE.

Cemeteries chosen had to be general or denominational, publicly accessible, and still have their original bodies (at least some), even if restructured into a memorial park. Sites described are arranged by region, and also in various categories, such as those with the Top View, Picnic Spots, etc. Included essays cover the history of memorial practices, monumental masons, and headstone and cemetery design, to note just a few.

Dr Murray has long been committed to making history accessible to the public. We wish her book success, and will enjoy browsing the copy now in our collection.

Vote of thanks: Kathie Rieth

Notes by H W Davies, L Lucas, Dr L Murray.

TREASURER'S REPORT

This month our operating income amounted to \$900 with our expenses amounting to \$560 leaving us with a surplus for the month of \$340. Our net surplus for the year to dates amounts to \$5,999.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to three new members:

Robyn Eastman, Turramurra

Jennie Little, Turramurra

Jennifer Little, Berowra Heights

TOUR REPORTS

The Woollahra Synagogue and Jewish Museum.

This Tour got off to a wonderful start with our very entertaining and interesting visit to the Emanuel Synagogue at Woollahra. Rev Sam Zwarenstein was a wonderful host, and all enjoyed the visit. For those interested, Sam has supplied a note on the origins and functions of an Eruv. This note is available in the Tour Folder in the research rooms.



Torah



Torahs in Silver Cases



Tree of Life



Close up of Leaves on Tree, inscribing Special Events in Person's Life

Luckily we had wonderful weather for our outdoor picnic lunch at Centennial Park. After this, our luck ran out. When we arrived at the Jewish Museum in Darlinghurst Road we met a full team of police managing what, luckily, turned out to be a hoax bomb threat and thus our tour was cancelled. A new date will be established soon and details will be available in next month's newsletter.

Text; Neil Falconer; Photos: Margaret Holland

TOUR DESK

Important – Our tours are becoming more popular and it is important to make your booking as early as possible. In cases where the tour rapidly fills, and the venue has a limit, please complete the Expression of Interest form in the tour folder, and if there are sufficient numbers we can organise another visit. For those venues that do not have a limit we can attempt to organise a larger vehicle. In both cases, we rely on the expression of interest form.

The Booking process includes a Tour Description sheet for each tour that outlines timing, any special requirements and the pick up site.

Tour bookings can only be made by visiting the Research Centre, and by completing a booking and a Blue indemnity form if you have not previously completed one. This includes an opportunity to identify dietary requirements.

There are now two separate **GREEN BOOKING FOLDERS**: one for Exploring Ku-ring-gai Tours, and one for General Tours. The Booking system is the same for each type of tour.

Payment is due when making your tour bookings, please bring the correct amount or a cheque to cover the planned cost. Change is not always available. **Bookings are not confirmed until they are paid for.**

EXPLORING KU-RING-GAI

These very informative and interesting Exploring Ku-ring-gai tours (99.6 km around Ku-ring-gai) conducted regularly by Vice President Jo Harris (normally once a month on a Monday.) These popular tours present a wonderful opportunity to enhance our membership. Almost 33 Exploring Ku-ring-

gai Tours have been conducted over the last two and half years.

Next Tours: 10 April, 1 May. Lunch at a mystery location included. Cost \$45 (Members), \$50 (Non Members.)

COAL LOADER, BALLS HEAD AND SAW MILLERS RESERVE

Friday 21 April,
Bookings now open.

The tour will take us to the centre at Balls Head which showcases innovation, and enables hands-on learning about sustainability in everyday life. The tour will also discuss the ex-industrial site.

There will be a picnic lunch at Balls Head Reserve overlooking Sydney Harbour. Travel by bus.

Cost: \$40 (Members), \$45 (Non Members).

NORTH HEAD AND FORT NORTH

Thursday May 18.

Bookings open Monday 24th April.

On this excursion we will explore the fascinating history of North Head and the role of the military establishment there during WWII.



We will visit the military museum and the memorial walkway and go down into the tunnels which honeycomb the area connecting all the gun pits.

Following this we will walk through the reserve which was formerly the School of Artillery, and view the buildings, finishing at the parade ground.

A picnic lunch nearby, and an interesting drive, then back to Bannockburn.

Cost: Including Picnic Lunch (Overlooking the Harbour) \$45 (members), \$50 (Non Members)

POMPEII RESCUE NAVY, EMPIRE, CATASTROPHE, Guided tour.

National Maritime Museum

Wednesday June 14.

Bookings open Monday 15th May.

In 79 AD, Mount Vesuvius erupted, spewing huge waves of volcanic ash and debris over the thickly populated Bay of Naples. In response the Roman fleet under its Commander, Pliny the Elder, ordered the fleet to the rescue and is one of the first recorded rescues by sea of civilians by a military force.

The exhibition reveals how the Roman navy came to dominate the Mediterranean, and how this control created a boom in maritime trade not seen again for a thousand years.

Objects displayed include jewellery, ceramics, sculptures, and frescoes from Pompeii and the region.

Our ticket includes access to the entire museum after the Pompeii tour.

Lunch will be at the Harbourside YOTS Café. Cost (Includes lunch at YOTS café) \$55 (Members), \$60 (Non Members.)

WORLD WAR I MEMORABILIA

On March 11, as part of the Seniors Festival the World War I Writers Group held its third "Show and Tell" meeting.

Christine Yeats, Senior Vice-President, RAHS talked about the care and preservation of memorabilia, and gave the names of possible repositories for such items.

Attendees brought along a range of items - from war diaries, through a Kodak folding camera and pictures, to medals and certificates giving their provenance.



WWI Medal Set



Dog Tags



"The Soldiers Camera"
Kodak Vest Pocket Camera



Basic War Diary

A list of useful websites was provided by Christine. A copy can be obtained from the Society's rooms.

THE SHIPPING REGISTER

With thanks to Alison Trotter, the Shipping Register folder is now back on the shelf – so you can add your forebears' names under the ship on which they arrived. Look for it on your next visit to the Society.

TREEVIEW GENEALOGY SOFTWARE

TreeView (ver.2) is the only genealogy software that runs under Windows, Mac, iOS and Android. Costs vary by version.

TreeView is easy to use so that you can record your family's history and view details of your ancestors in a number of different and attractive ways. A good range of charts and detailed reports can be generated.

Data from other programmes can be imported using GEDCOM.

Sync between TreeView, TreeView Online and the TreeView App to keep your family history at your fingertips! Download the free TreeView app for your smartphone or tablet and easily carry your family tree with you wherever you go, even when you have no signal. Ideal for viewing and updating your tree when on the move.

Easily add details of your ancestors by attaching facts, notes, images, addresses, sources and citations. One very useful element is its map search function so that location of houses addresses, etc, can be found without going to Google Maps.

TreeView's Research screen connects you to The Genealogist website so you can access their growing collection of records and also to a number of other useful sites in order to explore more data which you may wish to add to your family tree. (A subscription is required to view full details of records on certain websites.)

Cassell's Gazetteer of Great Britain & Ireland 1893, The Imperial Dictionary of Universal Biography (circa 1870), Landowners Records for Ireland (1876) England and Wales (1873) and Scotland (1872-1873) come with the Premium Edition.

A trial version can be downloaded:
treeview.co.uk/download/

IRISH SIG

Last meeting looked at the documents from the Registry of Deeds which is now available free online, as well as other online resources.

BLUE GUM HIGH FOREST

Blue Gum High Forest Walk @ Gordon
Celebrating the National Trust Heritage Festival 2017, Sunday 30 April, 2017

Meet 9.45am for 10am start. Finish at 12noon
This ecologically focused walk will explore Gordon's past and present Blue Gum High remnant forest that considers its future. The walk will highlight's Ku-ring-gai's Indigenous, colonial, Victorian, Federation, Inter-war and post WWII history.

Meet in front of Gordon Railway Station Ticket Office. Bring hat, water, snack and wear good walking shoes. Bookings ring Janine Kitson 9498 2402 or 0428 860 623
Email:

janine_kitson@tpg.com.au www.foke.org.au
www.facebook.com/friendsofkuringgai

ROSEVILLE BRANCH, RSL

The President and Members of Roseville RSL Sub Branch invite members of KHS to attend their ANZAC Day Dawn Service at the Roseville Memorial Park (next to the Memorial Club) at 5.00am, Tuesday 25 April, followed by breakfast in the Memorial Club.



The Sub Branch will not be holding an ANZAC Sunday Commemorative Service this year.

RSVP to Malcolm Whitney,
malkay@bigpond.net.au

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RECENT AQUISITIONS, February.

George Wilson, His Story by John Wilson 2016. An account of the life of George Wilson from Hull in Yorkshire to Sydney NSW. 152 pages. (BIO WIL)

Astronomical Memories by John Tebbut 1986. A reprint of the 1908 edition with introduction by Graeme White. Signed by the author, donated by Jo Harris. 154 pages. (BIO TEB)

Man Made The Cities But God Made The Bush by Nathan Tilbury 2017. A detailed history of early Berowra. Donated by the author. 244 pages with photographs (2081 TIL)

Australia, The First Hundred Years by Andrew Garran 1978. A facsimile of Vol 1 and Vol 2 of the Picturesque Atlas of Australia 1988. 530 pages with 700 engravings. (AUS 000)

The Field of Mars Cemetery at Ryde NSW by K Shaw and J Eastman 2016. Signed by the authors, 202 pages with photos and index.

Article on Captain Brian Pockley by Leslie Barrie 2016. Short article, 4 pages with photos (BIO POK)

Pauper Ancestors by David T Hawkins 2011. A guide to the records created by the Poor Laws in England and Wales. 500 pages (OVS UK HAW)

The Anglican Parish of the Brisbane Water Area, Pioneer Church Records, compiled by Gwen Bates, Wyong Family History Group, includes Baptisms, Marriages and Burials for Brisbane Waters and Kincumber. (CEM 2250)

WHERE IS IT?

March Answer:

“Lapwing Reserve” is a new park officially opened January 2017 located at Carcoola Road St Ives. It is named after the many masked lapwing plover birds which inhabit the area. Council purchased two properties to add nearly 2000sqm to the existing parkland.

The updated area contains a more natural collection of play equipment including slides and a grassy fort on a hill.

This month's “Where is it?”



PRESERVATION WORKSHOP

Christine Yeats, formerly of the State Records of NSW and now Senior Vice President of the Royal Australian Historical Society, will run a Preservation workshop on Wednesday 5 April from 10.30am to 3pm.

Christine will help us learn about the correct way to handle, store and preserve an archive. The workshop will be free, and a light lunch will be provided, but bookings are essential for catering purposes. Please book by Friday 31 March - 9499 4568.

THE HISTORIAN

The latest Historian has been distributed.

Congratulations to Jennifer Harvey and Lorna Watt for another great presentation of the history of Ku-ring-gai, particularly Killlara in this issue.

Thanks go to the many people who contributed articles which give colour to streets and houses. Jennifer Anderson, Mayor of Ku-ring-gai, contributed a story about her love affair with 4 Springvale Road, the house in which she and her husband lived from 1987 until its sale in August 2016.

Note change of date for submission of material for the Newsletter.

Newsletter Deadline

Please send email copy for publication to editor@khs.org.au as early as possible, but no later than **13th of each month**.

Items will only be accepted from members of KHS.

Copy is accepted on the basis that Ku-ring-gai Historical Society has editing rights and that readers can reproduce it in whole or part with acknowledgement.

If possible, material should be in electronic form, with as little formatting as possible, e.g. no bullets, coloured type, indenting or styles.

DIARY DATES

April

Saturday 1, 11.00am Family History

Workshop: Paul Parton, *Using the FamilySearch website*.

Saturday 1, 2.00pm **Family History Meeting** followed by *Men of the Endeavour - the story of Captain Cook*.

Presenter: Patrick Dodd.

Monday 3, 2.00pm **Mac SIG**

Wednesday 5, 10.30am **Preservation Workshop** by Christine Yeats.

Monday 10, **German SIG**.

Monday 10, Tour: **Exploring Ku-ring-gai**.

Saturday 15, 2.00pm **General Meeting**, followed by *Life and Times of Sir John Monash*. Presenter: John Malmberg.

Friday 21, Tour: **Coal Loade, Balls Head and Saw Millers Reserve**.

May

Monday 1, **Exploring Ku-ring-gai**.

Saturday 6, 11.00am **Family History Workshop:** *All about Cyndi's List*.

Saturday 6, 2.00pm, *The Women in Arthur Phillip's Life*, Presenter Michael Flynn.

Friday 12, 1.30pm, **Irish SIG**, history of Ireland in the late 1830s.

Thursday 18, Tour: **North Head and North Fort**.

Saturday 20, 2.00pm **General Meeting**, Followed by: *The Paul Brickhill Story*.

Presenter: John Ramsland.

June

Saturday 3, 11.00am **Family History Workshop**.

Saturday 3, 2.00pm **Family History Meeting**.

Monday 5, 2.00pm **Mac SIG**.

Wednesday 14, Tour: **Pompeii Rescue Navy, Empire Catastrophe**.

Saturday 17, 2.00pm **General Meeting**, followed by *Life in Submarines*.

Presenter: Doug Edwards.

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The Society's Research Centre is at 799 Pacific Highway, Gordon, adjacent to the Ku-ring-gai Library. The Centre is open to the public from 10 am to 2 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday (except the first Saturday of each month when members have a Family History meeting.